



Administrative Office of Courts

ACDD, MIS, Juvenile, & Traffic Divisions

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Welcome

In this edition, we say farewell to one of our editors and take a sneak peek at the new AlaCourt.gov website. In technology, we look at a program that's getting rave reviews, how we fund that program and others, office automation, and what AOC is doing to make e-filing easier. We also invite you to the TASC Conference in Birmingham and share a teen's adventure to see the courthouses in all 67 counties.

As always, if you have any special news or announcements that you would like featured, please email us at newsletter@alacourt.gov.

Volume 2, Issue 5, August 2006



Alabama Judicial Building
300 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

A Farewell to Shel Singleton

Shel said, "Since beginning at the AOC in February 2005, I had the experience to learn in the Purchasing division and grow in Technology working on the helpdesk. Everybody was a great help. The AOC was beginning to feel like home to me and I really regret having to give up working with such a fun and supportive family. This was truly the opportunity of a life time for me and I will always keep you guys close! A special thanks to Chief Justice Nabers, Randy Helms, Mike Carroll, Fred Lilly, Bob Bradford, Alicia Cannon and Judge Price for believing in me and giving me a chance. Thanks and farewell!"



Shel's last day with AOC was July, 28th. We enjoyed working with her on the Technology Update newsletter and other projects. We will especially miss her sense of humor. Her farewell party was a light-hearted affair with the cake reading "Beat It" with a boot for her to hit the road.

Shel moved to Georgia, where her husband has started a non-profit organization.

Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome

Farewell to an Editor

Sneak Peek

E-Citation

Traffic Record Assessment

Office Automation

E-filing

TASC Conference

Courthouse Adventure



AlaCourt.gov gets a new look!

AlaCourt.gov is in the process of being updated. The web functionality will be improved for easier navigation and usability.

eCourt Services will be designed to direct attorneys, clerks, and the general public to their most used links. If you have any suggestions that you think will improve the functionality of AlaCourt.gov, please email newsletter@alacourt.gov

September Birthdays

Michael Moore	09/17
Randy Helms	09/18
Zinnie Pettus	09/21
Michael Dinkins	09/27



Senior Editor:

Jeremy Darabaris

Contributing Editors:

Brandy Cox

Karen Craymer

[Continued on Page 2](#)



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

E-Citation – A hot ticket item

The demand for E-citation continues to grow as local jurisdictions see the value of its efficiency and expediency. Traffic citations are the most numerous case types filed in the Alabama Judicial System, accounting for 47% of all district court cases last year. While individual traffic cases require less time than other cases within district court jurisdictions, they still lead the way in the amount of revenue collected, enforcement activities and generation of contact with the general public. In short, as traffic case processing can be streamlined, the entire court process will be improved.

E-Citation meets and exceeds the goal of streamlining the ticketing process by providing a method for officers to issue a paper ticket at roadside and then transmit the electronic version directly to the court's case management system. The ticket arrives with no errors, no interpretation of an officer's handwriting and no data entry.

Currently, the application has been released to 75 state troopers and the City of Tuscaloosa. An additional 100 troopers are being trained and equipped and now the Shelby County Sheriff's Office is interested in E-Citation. They want to install and train one officer to try out E-citation and then rollout to about 45 others. This is not only an advantage to the law enforcement officers, but the Clerks' offices will see the benefit as more and more move to this electronic format for issuing citations.

Traffic Records Assessment

Ever wonder how we pay for all of the advances in court automation and technology?



The AOC actively seeks grants to help improve the judicial system. Some examples of programs funded by these grants are E-Citation, MIDAS, and LETS, as well as several other projects under development. To make sure the funds are utilized in the most efficient and effective way, an assessment team comes in periodically to review our progress and give suggestions for improvement.

Office Automation

Robert Bates, Cullman County Circuit Clerk, read last month's article entitled *Circuit Clerk Implements Office Automation* and decided to contact Steve Leveque about having their docket confirmations emailed as well. Robert Bates said, "We just did our first cc docket mailers. We got an e-mail confirmation. We saved 77 pages of paper on this one small docket. We have had over 300 pages of confirmation before."

Thanks to Jody Campbell's idea, now two counties are saving time and money by having their confirmations emailed to them. The email confirmations can be easily accessed and reduces waste. If you are interested in this service or have some ideas for office automation, please contact us at:

newsletter@alacourt.gov

~~ACDD~~ ➔

AOC has added programming to assist in the ability to accept CS and DR e-filings

Social security numbers in CS and DR cases are being added to the Clerk's record (AV02 party screen), using SSN information from updated ACDD records.

This is the ONLY information that is being carried over.



Administrative Office of Courts

ACDD, MIS, Juvenile, & Traffic Divisions

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



Chief Justice Drayton Nabers will address the attendees of the 13th National Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) Conference on Drugs and Crime in Birmingham at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, scheduled for September 17 through 20, 2006. He will highlight the contributions the Alabama Judicial System has made toward ending prison overcrowding and making Alabama's communities safer.

The Conference planning committee, chaired by Dr. Foster Cook of the UAB TASC, has developed an outstanding agenda for those interested in Drug Courts and Community Corrections. At this conference, attendees will be given an up-close look at the creation, maintenance, and successful application of alternatives such as Drug Courts and other Problem Solving Courts. The program will also include discussion of Leadership, Recovery and Special Needs Populations, Clinical Skills and Case Management, and Reentry.

Representatives from other states that have successfully implemented Drug Courts will be in attendance to exchange ideas on how to best improve the judiciary's approach to drugs and crime.

For more information about National TASC and this conference, please visit <http://www.nationaltasc.org>.

The Huntsville Times

Local teen's courthouse curiosity results fun trips

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

By GREGG L. PARKER For the Madison Spirit writeone35758@yahoo.com

James Robert Dearman visited every one in state

James Robert Dearman, an Alabama history and geography buff, wanted an eyewitness account of his state. James Robert decided to visit every courthouse in all 67 counties in Alabama.

Then 13, his planning began in 2004 when he and his father, Jim Dearman, drove past the Limestone County Courthouse in Athens. "I thought it was the neatest building I'd ever seen," James Robert said.

James Robert, 15, completed 13 trips, usually with his grandfather, Robert E. "Bob" Murray of Nashville. "He likes this kind of stuff almost as much as I do. We started at the top of the state and pretty much worked our way down."

Their trips lasted one day, except to Mobile. They twice combined visiting courthouses with a beach stay. They traveled only when courthouses were open and school was dismissed, in summer, days after Christmas and spring and fall breaks.

"It's not often you hear your son pipe up with, 'Hey, I know what we can do. Let's visit every courthouse in the whole state of Alabama,'" Jim Dearman said. "To say this idea caused us to raise our eyebrows a bit would be, perhaps, an understatement."

The Dearman family now better appreciates small-town Alabama and the state's uniqueness. "And after 4,400 miles, we realize how determined and dedicated our son can be."

A relative, usually his grandfather, photographed James Robert in front of the courthouses. James Robert documented courthouses built on a square and those with a working clock or Confederate monument on the lawn.

James Robert always entered the buildings and found knowledgeable people to question, such as sheriffs, probate and circuit court judges, county court clerks and janitors. He asked for construction date, the county's major industry, name origin of the city or county and any famous residents.

"I learned that (boxer) Joe Louis and the senator who started Mother's Day are from Chambers County," he said.

He considers the Bibb County Courthouse in Centreville the most unusual structure. Unlike most symmetrical courthouses, this one resembles a house on the right and a domed clock tower on the left. "You turn a picture of it 90 degrees counter-clockwise and it fits the shape of the county almost perfectly," he said.

"The Pickens County Courthouse in Carrollton has the face of Henry Wells, a local prisoner, imprinted on the upstairs window as a result of a lightning strike as he looked out," he said. The Bullock County Courthouse in Union Grove "looks like an old, haunted house." In Hayneville in Lowndes County, the courtroom, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has a prison cell to hold the defendant.

James Robert's book, "Courthouses of Alabama" catalogs all his findings. With two pages per courthouse, the book contains city and county populations, location within the county, region of the state and first two characters of license plates. His work was recognized in Montgomery when Gov. Bob Riley reviewed his documentation.

In August, James Robert will be a Bob Jones High School sophomore. An outdoors enthusiast, he likes fishing with his father on the family boat, backpacking and playing flag football. He's active in the youth group at Madison Church of Christ and will attend a mission trip to Virginia later this month. He is working toward his Eagle rank in Boys Scouts, Troop 350.

His father is a site supervisor for ERC Inc. on Redstone Arsenal. His mother, Carol, is a stay-at-home mom who is completing her secondary teaching certification in math at Athens State University. His siblings are John Edward, 12, and Caroline, 8, students at Heritage Elementary School.